



**NCUA**  
National Credit Union Administration

Office of the Executive Director  
Office of Examination and Insurance

# Cybersecurity Update

October 2023

# Overview

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1. Trending Attack Tactics
2. Raise the Adversary's Cost
3. NCUA Raising the Adversary's Cost
4. The Third-Party Challenge
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# Trending Attack Tactics

1

Simple password attacks on web applications are used **nearly half** the time

2

System intrusion used **over a third** of the time (web apps, remote management, and email)

3

Human errors responsible a **third** of the time

4

Social engineering used a **quarter** of the time

# Raise the Adversary's Cost



**1** Multi-Factor Authentication

**2** CISA Shields Up  
Mitigate Vulnerabilities  
Automated Web Scanning

**3** Increase Training  
Anti-Phishing Training

**4** Other High-Impact,  
Low-Cost Activities

# NCUA Raising the Adversary's Cost



## Executive Order 14028

- Encryption
- Multi-Factor Authentication
- Contract Language
- Software Supply Chain
- Zero Trust Architecture

## Vulnerability Management

## Website Security Testing

## Cybersecurity Testing and Training

# Third-Party Challenge

MOVEit  
Vulnerabilities...



...led to  
private data  
stolen from  
**2,000+**  
Organizations  
**60 million**  
individuals

# Where to Start with Cybersecurity

- **Contact your Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Regional Office**
  - <https://www.cisa.gov/audiences/find-help-locally>
- **CISA Shields Up Guidance for Organizations**
  - <https://www.cisa.gov/shields-guidance-organizations>

# Information Security Examination

- **The Information Security Examination program is based on asset size, complexity, and risk profile.**
  - Small Credit Union Examination Program
  - Core
  - Core Plus
- **There are three primary components to the Information Security Examination program.**
  - Exam Profile
  - Statements
  - Sub-Statements



# Information Security Examination

- **Strengths of Small Credit Unions (<\$50M) from 2023 Information Security Examinations:**
  - Maintain backup and recovery plans for critical systems and services in the event of a disaster or incident.
  - Maintain anti-virus and/or anti-malware controls.
  - Patch critical applications and systems.

# Information Security Examination

- **Suggestions for Small Credit Unions (<\$50M) from 2023 Information Security Examinations:**
  - Report information security risk assessment results to the board of directors.
  - Provide test results of key or critical controls to the board of directors.
  - Report cybersecurity contract provisions for third-party service providers to their board of directors.

# Information Security Examination

- **Strengths of CORE Credit Unions (>\$50M) from 2023 Information Security Examinations:**
  - Workstations and servers receive automatic updates.
  - Possess active anti-virus / anti-malware alerting mechanisms.
  - Deploy email server anti-malware protections.

# Information Security Examination

- **Suggestions for CORE Credit Unions (>\$50M) from 2023 Information Security Examinations:**
  - Report information security risk assessment results to the board of directors.
  - Provide test results of key or critical controls to their board of directors.
  - Provide third-party service provider cybersecurity contract provisions to their board of directors.

# Cyber Incident Reporting Rule

- **The NCUA Board approved the cyber incident reporting rule on July 21, 2023**
  - Codified in 12 CFR part 748
- **The rule requires credit unions to inform NCUA within 72 hours of a reportable cyber incident as of September 1, 2023**
  - Defined as a substantial loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability caused by unauthorized access

# Cyber Incident Reporting Rule

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- **146 incidents reported in the first 30 days since rule implementation**
- **Over 60% of reported incidents were due to third-party compromises**

# How to Report Cyber Incidents

**To report a cyber incident, credit unions may contact the NCUA through the following channels:**

- Call the NCUA at 1-833-CYBERCU (1-833-292-3728) and leave a voicemail; or,
- Use the National Credit Union Administration Secure Email Message Center  
<https://web1.zixmail.net/s/login?b=ncua> to send a secure email to [cybercu@ncua.gov](mailto:cybercu@ncua.gov).

# NCUA's Cybersecurity Resources

## Cybersecurity Resources

NCUA's Information Security Examination and Cybersecurity Assessment Program



ACET and Other Assessment Tools

Supply Chain Risk Management (SCRM)



Catastrophic and Incident Reporting

NCUA's Regulations and Guidance



References & Resources

[www.ncua.gov/cybersecurity](https://www.ncua.gov/cybersecurity)



# Office Contact Page

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